

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 25, 1859.—E. W. H. Holdsworth, Esq., F.L.S., in the Chair.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY
TYRANNIDÆ. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

ATTILA CITRINIVENTRIS.

Rufescens, capite obscuriore et cinereo tincto, dorso imo dilutiore, uropygio citrino-flavo: alis nigricantibus, extus rufescente limbatis; gula cinerascens, pectore rufo, ventre cum crisso citrino-flavo, hypochondriis et tectricibus subalaribus rufis: cauda clare rufo unicolore, basin versus dilutiore: rostro nigricante, pedibus plumbeis.

Long. tota 6·75, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·6, rostri a rictu 1·0.

Hab. In valle Amazonum superiore ad ripas fl. Ucayali (*Hauwell*).

This species of *Attila* comes nearest to *Attila spadiceus* of Cayenne and Northern Brazil, and is of about the same size, but may be distinguished by its darker and more cinereous head and yellow belly, as well as minor differences. An example in my own collection was received from MM. Verreaux of Paris. One belonging to Mr. Gould was procured by Hauwell on the Ucayali.

As to the position of this genus of birds and the synonymy of the species, I agree with the views of M. de Lafresnaye, as given in his article in the 'Revue Zoologique' (1848, p. 39).

Next to *Attila*, I think, must be placed the curious type *Casiornis* of Bonaparte, of which the earliest specific name appears to be *rubra* of Vieillot. Its synonymy is very much confused; but I am inclined to refer *Suiriri roxa*, Azar. sp. 188; *Muscicapa rubra*, Vieill. Dict. xxi. 457, et Enc. p. 831; *Muscicapa hæmatodes*, Licht.; *Dasycephala hæmatodes*, Cab. in Wieg. Arch. 1847, i. p. 222; *Dasycephala rubra*, Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. 87; *Tyrannula rufula*, Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1852, p. 6, and, probably, *Tyrannus thamnophiloides* of D'Orbigny (Voy. p. 309), to this bird. MM. de Castelnau and Deville obtained examples of it at Goyaz during their American travels; and it has recently been described and figured by M. Des Murs in the Ornithology of their Expedition under the name *Casiornis typus*. Its general structure is very much that of *Attila*; but the bill is quite short and much more feeble, and the feet are not nearly so strong.

MYIODYNASTES NOBILIS.

Supra ochracescenti-rufus, nigro variegatus; plumis medialiter nigris, ochracescenti-rufo undique marginatis: crista brevi verticali interne aurea: loris et macula post-oculari cum striga rictali nigris: fronte et linea superciliari flavicantibus: alis nigricantibus; tectricibus ochracescenti-rufo, secundariis albo, primariis rufo extus limbatis: cauda ferruginea, rectricum omnium parte mediali, scapam marginante, nigra: subtus albus,

abdomine et crisso citrino indutis, pectore et lateribus nigro flammulatis: subalaribus citrino-flavis: rostro corneo, mandibulæ inferioris basi alba; pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 8·5, alæ 4·5, caudæ 3·7, rostri a rictu 1·2, tarsi 0·74.

Hab. In litt. reipublicæ Nov. Granadæ in vicinitate urbis S. Marthæ.

This fine *Myiodynastes* is a close ally of *M. audax* and *M. luteiventris*, but is readily distinguishable by its stronger bill, longer tail, which is slightly forked, and the lighter surface of the body below; this is nearly pure white on the throat and middle of the belly, being rather sparingly flammulated on the breast and sides, which latter parts, along with the crissum, are tinged with yellow.

The example of this bird in my own collection was obtained from MM. Verreaux of Paris, and was received from their collector at Santa Martha.

The true type of the genus *Myiodynastes*, Bp. (a generic term published by the Prince, like many others, without characters, or even the indication of any exact type), was intended, I believe, to have been the *Tyrannus audax*, Auct. The name first appeared in print in the 'Comptes Rendus' for April 3, 1854, in connexion with *M. luteiventris*; but it also occurs in the catalogue of birds collected in Cayenne by M. Desplanches* (p. 11), where it is applied to *T. audax*. The division seems a natural one, connecting *Pitangus* and *Tyrannus*.

CONTOPUS MESOLEUCUS.

Obscure cineraceus, olivaceo vix tinctus, pileo, alis et cauda nigricantibus, secundariis dorso proximis albo extus marginatis: subtus obscure cineraceus, vitta longitudinali a mento corpus descendente cum ventre toto albo, flavicante tincto, hypochondriis et crisso cineraceo adumbratis: fasciculo plumarum utrinque ad latera uropygii, alis oblecto, albo: rostro nigro, mandibulæ inferioris basi flavida: pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 6·75, alæ 4·0, caudæ 2·7.

Hab. In Mexico meridionali, et in rep. Guatemala (*Skinner*).

This bird is easily recognizable by the creamy-white medial line, which passes from the chin to the crissum, expanding greatly on the belly. My examples are from Orizaba, collected by Botteri. Mr. Gould possesses a specimen from Guatemala of the same species. The form is quite typical,—the wings being very long, and the second primary, which is the longest, considerably (by 0·15 inch) exceeding the first and third, which are equal. The curious white tufts at the side of the uropygium, covered by the wings, are very noticeable in this species—more so than in my examples of *C. borealis*.

* This little tract is extracted, I believe, from the Mémoires of a learned Society, published at Caen. The only copy I have ever seen was given to me by the author himself in 1857, shortly before his death. In it is established a new genus of *Tyrannidæ*—*Planchesia*—for *Muscicapa fuliginosa*, Gm. (Pl. Enl. 574. fig. 1); and the generic term *Syrichtha*, the type of which appears to have been unknown to Mr. Gray, is used for *Tyrannus curtipes*, Sw.

CONTOPUS SORDIDULUS.

Obscure cineraceus, tectricum majorum et secundariorum marginibus dilutioribus, fere albicantibus: loris albidis: subtus pallide cinereus, gutture medio albescente, ventre medio et crisso albis: rostri nigri basi inferiore pallida: pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 6·0, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·5.

Hab. In Mexico meridionali et Guatemala.

This *Contopus* much resembles the preceding, but is considerably smaller in its dimensions, of a rather purer cinereous above, and much lighter cinereous below. This colour passes into whitish on the throat, and nearly pure white on the belly and crissum, without showing the continuous white medial stripe, which renders *Contopus mesoleucus* so noticeable. In structure it is identical with *Contopus virens*; but it has no trace of olive on its plumage.

I regard *Contopus* as a very natural division of the *Tyrannidæ*, characterized by its long wings and short tarsi.

Near *Contopus*, must be placed, I think, Prince Bonaparte's genus *Planchesia*, referred to above.

February 22, 1859.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

ON THE EARED SEAL OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (*OTARIA DELALANDII*). BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

At a preceding meeting*, I gave an account of the Eared Seal from Behring's Straits, showing that it was distinct from the species found in other localities. I have since received from Paris a fine specimen of an adult Eared Seal from the Cape of Good Hope, which has been described in the Catalogue as *Phoca*, or *Otaria Delalandii*. Like the Seal from Behring's Straits, it proves to be a species of *Arctocephalus*, and, like it, is quite distinct from any of the species of that genus in the British Museum, being well characterized by the form and structure of the skull.

It is, like the Behring's Straits Seal, a *Fur-Seal*; that is to say, it has a close coat of red under-fur at the roots of the rigid flattened hair; but this under-fur is much shorter and less abundant in the adult specimen now under examination than in the adult specimen of the Eared Fur-Seal from Behring's Straits, or in the Eared Fur-Seal of the Falkland Islands. The Adult is about the same size as the Seal from the Arctic Circle, but is much paler in its general colour.

ARCTOCEPHALUS DELALANDII.

Hair rigid, under-fur small in quantity, reddish-brown; the hinder part of the palate with a deep narrow cavity, acutely angular in front.

Junior?

Le petit phoque, Buffon, Hist. Nat. xiii. 341, t. 53.

Little Seal, Penn. Quad. 243, from Buffon.

Phoca parva, Bodd. Elench. 78, from Buffon.

Phoca pusilla, Schreb. Säugeth. 314, t. 85, from Buffon.

* 'Annals' for January, 1860, p. 63.

Otaria pusilla, Desm. N. Dict. xxv. 600.

Otaria Peronii, Desm. Mamm. 250, 382; Encyc. Méthod. t. 111. f. 2, from Buffon.

Loup-marin, Pagès, Voy. aut. du Monde, ii. 32.

Adult.

Otaria Delalandii, F. Cuvier, Dict. Sci. Nat. xxxix. 423; Cuvier, Oss. Foss. v. 220, t. 18. f. 15, skull.

Phoca pusilla, part, Fischer, Syn. Mamm. 232.

Hab. Cape of Good Hope.

Cuvier (Oss. Foss. v. 220) observes that Delalande brought from the Cape a young specimen 3 feet 6 inches long, of a reddish-grey colour, the ends of the hairs annulated with grey and blackish, rather paler beneath—the whiskers strong, simple, and black—the feet black—the under-fur soft, woolly,—and two skeletons of young, and the skull of an adult specimen. This skull is figured (Cuvier, Oss. Foss. v. t. 18. f. 5); but unfortunately, the palate, which is the most characteristic part of the skull, is not figured nor described. The palate of the skull of the younger specimen is described thus:—“Le palais est plus étroit, se porte plus en arrière et est échancré par un angle plus aigu.”

Buffon notices a young Seal, which he calls the *petit phoque* (vol. xiii. t. 53), on which the *Phoca pusilla* of Schreber and succeeding authors has been founded, which is probably the young of this species.

Daubenton states (Hist. Nat. xiii. 413) that the specimen figured by Buffon came from India; but it is probable that it was brought from the Cape of Good Hope in a ship coming from India. No Seal has as yet been described as inhabiting the coast of India.

Fischer confounded with *Phoca pusilla* of Buffon a Seal from Rottennest Island, on the eastern coast of Australia (Syn. Mamm. 232).

As the British Museum has a good series of skulls of this genus, I am induced to add the following synopsis of the species, characterized by the peculiarities of the skull alone.

- I. *Face of skull short. Forehead convex, regularly rounded from the end of the nasal bone to the middle of the vertex. Lower jaw short, thick.*

ARCTOCEPHALUS URSINUS.

Arctocephalus ursinus, Gray, Cat. Phocidæ B.M. 41; et P. Z. S., anteà, p. 64.

Palate rather concave in front, narrowed and flattened behind, with a deep narrow hinder aperture, which has a regular ovate front edge; outer upper cutting-teeth moderate; orbit very large; zygoma very strong; grinders small.

Hab. Behring's Straits.

A skull of the adult male specimen here described.

- II. *Face of skull moderately elongated. Forehead rather convex, slightly rounded from nasal bone to vertex. Lower jaw elongated, slender.*

ARCTOCEPHALUS HOOKERI.

Arctocephalus Hookeri, Gray, *l. c.* p. 45; Voy. Erebus and Terror, t. skull.

Palate deeply concave in front, narrow and rather concave behind, with a deep hinder aperture, which has a transverse truncated front edge with a slight central lobe directed backward; outer upper cutting-teeth very large, conical, acute; orbit moderate; zygoma slender; angle of jaw bent inwards.

Hab. Falkland Islands (and Cape Horn?).

The skull of four half-grown specimens. They are all very uniform in their characters.

We have also the skull of a very young Seal which appears to belong to the same species.

In three of the skulls the outer upper cutting-teeth are very large and acute, more than half the size of the canines, and like them in form. In one skull (perhaps of a female?) the upper outer canines are much smaller and more slender, not half the size of the same teeth in the other skulls of the same size, and the canines themselves are also much more slender; the front of the palate is also more concave.

- III. *Face of skull moderately elongated; forehead flattened from nasal bone to the vertex. Lower jaw rather short, strong.*

ARCTOCEPHALUS DELALANDII.

Otaria Delalandii, F. Cuvier.

Face rather short; palate concave, hinder aperture narrow, with a rather acute ovate anterior edge; teeth large; lower jaw short, strong.

Hab. Cape of Good Hope.

Two skulls of adults from the Cape; and one half-grown, the habitat being unknown. These skulls agree in the form of the hinder palatine opening, but vary in other respects a little from each other: the two adult ones differ in the aperture of one being wider and shorter than that of the other; in the young skull the front edge of the aperture is more acute in the centre than in either of the others; the outer cutting-teeth of the upper jaw are large, but much smaller than the very large canines.

ARCTOCEPHALUS NIGRESCENS.

Arctocephalus nigrescens, Gray, Zool. Erebus and Terror, t. f. , skull (inedit.).

Face rather elongate. Palate slightly concave, flat behind, hinder aperture narrow, with a nearly straight front edge.

Hab. Falkland Islands?

A single skull from a half-grown specimen.

This skull is very like that of *A. Delalandii*, but differs considerably in the form of the front edge of the hinder palatine aperture: the outer cutting-teeth and the canines are moderately slender, and similar in form; but the latter are much the larger.

ARCTOCEPHALUS LOBATUS.

Arctocephalus lobatus, Gray, Cat. Phocidæ B.M. p. 44.

Face moderately elongate; palate deeply concave, narrowed behind, hinder aperture with a semicircular front edge; lower jaw rather short, strong.

Hab. Australia, Port Essington. Houtman's Abrolhos.

The canines are very large and strong; the outer upper cutting-teeth are large and compressed.

ARCTOCEPHALUS GILLESPII.

Otaria Gillespii, Macbain, Rep. Phys. Soc. Edinb. 1858.

The face much elongated; palate slightly concave, front edge of the hinder aperture ovate; lower jaw elongate, strong.

Hab. California.

We have a cast of the original skull described by Dr. Macbain, now in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

The species is at once known by the length of the face: that is, in all the other skulls of the genus we have, a line drawn across the palate at the front edge of the zygomatic arch leaves one-third of the palate behind the line, and two-thirds in front of it; while in this species it leaves only one-fourth behind, and very nearly three-fourths in front of the line.

The skull has only four grinders on each side in the upper jaw, but one has evidently fallen out in front of the series and one behind; but the fifth grinder of the complete series, which is usually in a line with the front edge of the zygomatic opening, is in this species rather in front of it.

The Eared Seals (*Arctocephali*) have been divided into Fur- and Hair- (Eared) Seals by the sealers. *A. Hookeri* and *A. lobatus* are called Hair Seals, because they are destitute of any under fur: but this appears to be the case only with the older specimens; for the young of *A. lobatus* is said to be covered with soft fur, which falls off when the next coat of hair is developed. The under-fur is well developed in the adult specimens of *A. ursinus* and *A. Delalandii* and the half-grown specimen of *A. nigrescens*, and entirely absent in the adult *A. Hookeri* and half-grown *A. lobatus* in the Museum Collection.

April 12, 1859.—Professor Busk, F.R.S., in the Chair.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS COLLECTED BY
MR. LOUIS FRASER AT PALLATANGA, ECUADOR. BY
PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

VIREO JOSEPHÆ.

Fuscescenti-olivaceus, pileo nigricanti-fusco: alis caudaque intus

nigricantibus, extus olivaceo limbatis; superciliis distinctis albis; lateribus capitis cinereis: subtus albus, abdomine toto et tectricibus subalaribus flavo perfusis: rostro superiore plumbeo, inferiore albicante, pedibus plumbeis.

Long. tota 4·75, alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·8.

Seven ex. ♂ and ♀. The ♂s brighter below. "Irides dark hazel; contents of stomach, insects."

This is the only *Vireo* with a first spurious primary (in this bird measuring 0·7 inch from its insertion) which I have yet seen from Southern America. In form it is somewhat similar to *V. noveboracensis*. I have named it at Mr. Fraser's request after Señora Josefa Borja y Davilos, who, with other members of the same family, rendered every facility to Mr. Fraser in forming his collections on their estates at Pallatanga. The only other species of this group of which I have seen S. American examples are *Vireosylvia olivacea* of the U.S., which extends into New Granada, and *V. agilis* (*Lanius agilis*, Licht.) from Brazil, and extending northwards to New Granada. I do not know *Vireosylvia frenata* of DuBus (Bull. Ac. Brux. xxii. p. 150), said to be from Ocaña in New Granada; but the description given agrees with *Vireo altiloquus* of the Antilles.

NEMOSIA ORNATA.

Fuscescenti-cinerea olivaceo tincta; capite toto undique et corpore subtus saturate cinnamomeo-rufis; gula flavicantiore; ventre medio albo: rostro superiore nigro, inferiore cum pedibus plumbeis.

Long. tota 4·7, alæ 2·4, caudæ 2·0.

Three ex. "Bill black above, blue below; feet and legs blue: stomach contained insects." This pretty new species of *Nemosia* is a close ally of *N. sordida* and *N. ruficeps* of my Synopsis, but is conspicuously different in colouring.

ANABATES SUBALARIS.

Fusco-brunneus: uropygio et cauda tota saturate ferrugineis: striis capitis et colli superioris, plumarum scapas occupantibus, cum gula tota et striis pectoris latioribus pallide cervinis: tectricibus subalaribus clare cinnamomeis: rostro superiore nigro, inferiore plumbeo: pedibus virescentibus.

Long. tota 6·75, alæ 3·5, caudæ 3·0.

Five ex. "Irides dark hazel."

ANABATES TEMPORALIS.

Rufescenti-brunneus, cauda ferruginea; capite olivascente, oculorum ambitu et superciliis ante oculos angustis cum gula tota stramineis, striga superciliari post oculum, pectore toto et tectricibus subalaribus clare cinnamomeis: ventre crissoque fuscescentibus: rostro fuscescenti-viridi, apice pallidiore: pedibus fuscis.

Long. tota 6·0, alæ 3·6, caudæ 2·5.

Two ex. "Irides hazel."

DYSITHAMNUS UNICOLOR.

Obscure schistaceus unicolor: alis caudaque nigricantioribus: subalaribus albo variegatis: rostro nigro, pedibus plumbeis.

♀. *Obscure ferruginea, subtus dilutior: lateribus capitis cinerascentioribus.*

Long. tota 5·6, alæ 2·8, caudæ 2·3.

A pair of these birds, "from the lower trees and underwood: irides grey." The species must be placed next to *D. schistaceus* of my Synopsis. It differs in its shorter, stouter bill, the white markings beneath the wings, and want of white terminations to the rectrices. The brown bird is marked by Mr. Fraser as 'male;' but I have little doubt this is wrong.

FORMICIVORA CALOPTERA.

Cinerascenti-olivacea, fronte et superciliis albis: loris et regione oculari nigris: alis nigris, harum tectricibus minoribus et majoribus albo late terminatis; remigibus secunda, tertia, quarta et quinta albo, ceteris castaneo-rufo extus anguste limbatis: subtus alba; subalaribus, lateribus corporis et crisso flavicante perfusis: cauda cinerea, rectricibus duabus utrinque extimis omnino et duabus sequentibus partim albis: rostro nigro, mandibulæ inferioris basi albicante, pedibus plumbeis.

Long. tota 4·4, alæ 2·1, caudæ 1·8.

Three ex. "Irides hazel." Sexes, as marked, alike; but I should be inclined to consider them all males. The general appearance of this species is much the same as that of *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*; but the bill is much smaller and more feeble.

PACHYRHAMPHUS HOMOCHROUS.

♂. *Nigricanti-cinereus, subtus dilutior: plaga in basi interscapularium celata et macula ad basin primariorum interna albis: rostro superiore nigro, inferiore cum pedibus plumbeis.*

♀. *Castanea, subtus dilute cinnamomea, remigum parte interna nigricante.*

Long. tota 6·7, alæ 3·6, caudæ 2·7.

Three examples, one male and two females of this apparently undescribed species of *Pachyrhamphus*. It is closely allied to the rosy-breasted *Pachyrhamphus pectoralis* and its allies, but has no trace of colouring on the breast. The male has the usual second abnormal short primary. Mr. Fraser says in his notes, of the male (No. 1310), "Irides hazel; scaling of feet exactly like specimen No. 1307, of which I believe it to be the male. It was not found in the same tree, but close by. To me this is the most interesting bird I have collected in America, particularly as I believe it will confirm Mr. Sclater's views." "Contents of stomach insects."

CEPHALOPTERUS PENDULIGER*.

Niger, nitore nonnullo æneo: subalaribus albis nigro variegatis: appendiculo gutturali angusto, longissimo, ad mediam caudam

* A figure of this *Cephalopterus*, from Mr. Wolf's pencil, is given in the first number of 'The Ibis,' 1859 (pl. iii.).

attingente, omnino plumis oblecto: rostro superiore nigro, inferiore plumbeo; pedibus nigris.

Long. tota 14·5, alæ 9·5, caudæ 4·5, rostri a fronte 1·7, tarsi 1·8.

Two ex., both males. "Irides reddish." This extraordinary bird forms a third species of the peculiar genus *Cephalopterus* of Geoffroy St.-Hilaire, of which the type *C. ornatus* is now well known in collections, and commonly called the "Umbrella-bird." It is considerably smaller than *C. ornatus*, as may be seen by comparing the measurements given above with the following taken from a fine example of the latter species in Mr. Gould's collection. Whole length 17·5, wing 11·0, tail 6·5, bill from the front 1·9, tarsus 2·1. The peculiar characteristic of the present bird is, however, the length of the throat-lappet, which measures in one specimen 10 inches in length, in the other 8½ inches. In *Cephalopterus ornatus* the throat-lappet in the male measures about 4 inches. Here also it is much broader, and conceals a bare space on the neck, of which there is no appearance in the present bird. In *Cephalopterus glabricollis**, the only other known species of this curious form, which was discovered by Warszewicz in Veragua, described by Mr. Gould, and figured in the 'Proceedings Zool. Soc.' 1850, p. 92, pl. xx.), the forehead and neck, as well as the base of the throat-lappet, are entirely denuded.

Mr. Fraser's notes on this bird are, "*Bocinero*—found solitary in the high trees in the deep forest. His name is taken from his note, which resembles the noise made by the Indians when sounding their large shells, or (as others compare it to) the bellowing of a bull. At this time they are said to inflate the neck-appendage to nearly 3 inches in diameter, and to spread the crest as much over the face as possible. But a lady, who once had one alive, told me that when it slept its crest was thrown forward, and that when it uttered its note the feathers were thrown backward, showing the white stems. The appendage to the throat had not any opening to view; nor could one be found by blowing into the mouth or nostrils. It is rather contracted in drying than otherwise. The gizzard of one specimen contained fruit and seeds."

I have lately received from MM. Verreaux of Paris a skin of a *Cephalopterus* out of a collection received from Bogota. The specimen is not in good order, having been much contracted in drying, and deprived of its feet; but from its small size, white under wing-coverts, and narrow throat-lappet (which, however, is only 2·5 inches in length), it is apparently of this same species, being probably a female, or possibly a young male bird. It seems, therefore, probable that *Cephalopterus penduliger* occupies the valleys on the western side of the Andean range, as *C. ornatus* those on the eastern side, and that *C. glabricollis* takes their place in Central America.

* The suggestion of a recent writer in the Zoology of Castelnaud's Expedition (Oiseaux, p. 65), that this species is the adult stage of *Cephalopterus ornatus*, we regard as simply ridiculous.